

THE COMBINED SENECA COUN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

rec'd 12/3/84
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3100 S. ST. ROUTE 100
TIFFIN, OHIO 44883



447-3691; 435-6673
Kenneth W. Kerik, M.P.H.
Health Commissioner

December 3, 1984

Dear Resident:

The Seneca County Board of Health is issuing a water use advisory for households utilizing water from individual water wells immediately north of the Autolite property located on North Union Street, Fostoria.

Affected households are advised not to use their well water supply for potable uses such as drinking and cooking. This advisory does not affect households serviced by the Fostoria Municipal water system.

Testing of wells on the Autolite property has found a common industrial cleaning agent, trichloroethylene, in the groundwater. Tests last spring of groundwater on property adjacent to Autolite indicated the substance was confined to the plant property, but results of tests obtained November 30, 1984, revealed traces in some private wells north of the plant.

Although the number of wells containing trichloroethylene is not yet known, as a precautionary measure Autolite will provide bottled water free to all residences and commercial buildings near the plant which use water exclusively from private wells and may have been affected. Further testing of wells is being undertaken by the company and the Seneca County Department of Health to determine what corrective steps will be taken.

Health authorities have never confirmed a link between trichloroethylene and illness in humans, although the substance has caused cancer in some laboratory animals injected with it in large quantities.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 435-6673. Should you know of wells on or near your property that may be unknown to the Health Department, please notify my office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Kerik".

Kenneth W. Kerik
Health Commissioner

KWK:kjb



AUTOLITE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 880
FOSTORIA, OH. 44830
(419) 435-6655

For Further Information:

Rex B. Anderson
(419) 435-6655

For Immediate Release

AUTOLITE PROVIDES BOTTLED WATER

Fostoria, Ohio -- The Autolite Division of Allied Automotive is supplying bottled water for about 100 homes in a neighborhood immediately north of the plant following the discovery of low level traces of trichloroethylene in the area's groundwater.

Kenneth Kerik, Health Commissioner for Sandusky and Seneca Counties, said the bottled water offer was made to all residences in the area immediately after the trichloroethylene traces were discovered Friday, November 30. Testing of the area's water earlier this year had revealed no evidence of the substance in private wells.

Further tests are being undertaken by T. A. Gleason and Associates of Cincinnati. The firm is a consultant hired by Autolite last summer to conduct a \$150,000 comprehensive groundwater study at the plant.

Kerik said county, state health, and environmental protection agency officials are monitoring the testing program and will review the findings and recommend corrective action. In the meantime, he said any residents with concerns about the situation should contact him at 435-6673.

Trichloroethylene is a common industrial cleaning agent. Health authorities have never confirmed a link to human health problems, said Kerik, although it has caused cancer in some laboratory animals injected over their life times with large quantities.

Trichloroethylene was first discovered in the groundwater at the Autolite plant last May during a check of the plant's effluent from its process and coolant water whose source is an on-site well. County and state health officials were immediately notified and off-site tests were conducted to see if the substance had migrated from the plant. The water samples taken from those tests were monitored by the County Public Health

Department and examined in an approved state certified laboratory determined by the County Health Commissioner. At that time there was no evidence of trichloroethylene in any of the off-site samples, said Kerick.

Gleason and Associates were retained to define the extent of the problem on the Autolite property and, as a result of those tests, traces of trichloroethylene were subsequently found in some off-site wells. In addition to these studies, Gleason and Associates have also been retained by Autolite to design a procedure for cleaning the trichloroethylene from the groundwater.

Autolite has not used the cleaning agent trichloroethylene in any large quantities since the early 70's, according to Rex Anderson, Director of Employee Relations for the plant.

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**AQUA TECH
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANTS, INC.**

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* P.O. BOX 76, STATE ROUTE 100, MELMORE, OHIO 44845, (419) 397-2222

P.O. BOX 436, 181 S. MAIN ST., MARION, OHIO 43302, (614) 382-5991

November 16, 1984

Mr. Ken Kerik
Seneca County Health Dept.
3100 South State Route 100
Tiffin, OH 44883

Dear Mr. Kerik:

The water samples delivered to our laboratory on 14 November 1984 have been analyzed for trichloroethylene (TCE). The following table summarizes the results:

ATEC Sample #	Location	Trichloroethylene ($\mu\text{g/l}$)	Trans-1,2-dichloroethylene ($\mu\text{g/l}$)
12739	Clyde Strausbaugh	1.0	0.5
12740	Duane Vogal	1.7	< 0.3
12741	Ralph McClung	0.9	< 0.3
12742	James Harris	14.4	5.3
12743	James Peiffer	2.7	1.5

Please contact me at (419) 397-2659 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Robert S. Glowacky

Robert S. Glowacky
Organic Section Chief
and Principal Chemist

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